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Office of the Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

4 September 1980

Rear Admiral B. W. Compton, USN
Commander Carrier Group 6
FPO, New York, N.Y. 09542

Dear Admiral Compton:

I want to express my thanks to you, to Captain Batzler, and to the crew and officers of the USS NIMITZ for your hospitality during my visit to the ship this past weekend. I arrived on board with high expectations and they were surpassed in every respect. You were especially kind to spend so much time showing me the NIMITZ and discussing with me the problems of the ship and the Navy--as well as their capabilities.

I especially appreciated your help in arranging my flight in the A-6, an experience which I shall not soon forget. Please convey to Lieutenant Bud Jewett my gratitude for his professionalism, good humor, and patience in taking an apprehensive and inexperienced civilian flying with him. To the extent that officers such as Bud Jewett and Larry Fritsch are typical, the future of the Navy and the maintenance of its high standards of performance would seem assured. I was very impressed by them and their colleagues and have not been shy about sharing this view with Admiral Turner and my associates at CIA, the National Security Council Staff, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Again, many thanks for your hospitality and for so generously sharing your time with me.

Sincerely,

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Robert M. Gates
Executive Assistant
to the Director

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